

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 3163 - SB 3215**

February 28, 2012

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Prohibits any officer of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), sheriffs, and other deputies from seizing hunting equipment, including guns, ammunition, or other supplies unless the seizure of such equipment arises from an actual illegal taking of wildlife.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease State Revenue - \$34,400/Wildlife Resources Fund  
\$10,000/Department of General Services**

**Decrease Local Revenue – Exceeds \$80,000**

**Assumptions:**

- The number of court cases will not increase as a result of this proposed legislation.
- According to TWRA, it estimates a 22 percent decrease in fine revenue collected from hunting equipment seizures because such equipment will not be available as evidence.
- In FY10-11, TWRA collected \$148,500 from such fines.
- Limiting such seizures to those instances in which illegal taking of wildlife occurs will result in a recurring decrease in fine revenue of \$32,670 ( $\$148,500 \times 0.22$ ) to the Wildlife Resources Fund.
- It is estimated that local law enforcement will experience similar decreases in fine revenue. The recurring decrease in local fine revenue is estimated to exceed \$30,000.
- Equipment labeled as contraband, as seized by TWRA, is either destroyed or sold by the Department of General Services (DGS) at auction pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 70-6-201 (c)(2).
- According to DGS, sales of contraband hunting equipment last year totaled \$53,478. Of this amount, 15 percent (or \$8,022) was remitted to the Wildlife Resources Fund and the remaining 85 percent (or \$45,456) was retained by DGS.
- It is estimated that the proposed legislation will reduce the amount of contraband available for sale by 22 percent; thus, a recurring decrease in revenue of \$11,765 ( $\$53,478 \times 22\%$ ). This will result in a recurring decrease in state revenue to the Wildlife Resources Fund of \$1,765 (15%) and \$10,000 (85%) from DGS.

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- Hunting contraband seized by sheriffs and other local law enforcement to be subsequently sold at auction will no longer be available for seizure and subsequent auction. It is estimated that local government auction revenue is similar to state auction revenue; therefore, an estimated recurring decrease in local revenue exceeding \$50,000.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jdb